



## **5-Year Plan (2008 to 2013)**

### **Pomeroy Conservation District**

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#### **Organization of the Pomeroy Conservation District**

The Pomeroy Conservation District is a political subdivision of the State of Washington with authorities, powers and structure contained in Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 89.08.

- The Pomeroy Conservation District was formed under the RCW in 1950

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#### **Function of the Pomeroy Conservation District**

The function of the Pomeroy Conservation District is to make available to the residents of Garfield County, the technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land manager with conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

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#### **We Serve & Why**

- Citizens of Garfield County - to educate and help them to protect and enhance the counties natural resources.
- Future Generations - to preserve, protect, and enhance the natural resources of today so they will be available to our future generations.
- Neighboring Counties – to work with neighboring counties in a combined effort to protect and enhance the natural resources of our entire region.

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#### **Mission of the Pomeroy Conservation District**

- To assist the farmers and ranchers of Garfield County with service, expertise, and funding to manage for the conservation, preservation and enhancement of the natural resources within the Pomeroy Conservation District.

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#### **Vision of the Pomeroy Conservation District**

- Sustainable agricultural base and retention of family farm living.

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#### **Values of the Pomeroy Conservation District**

- Honesty and integrity
- Conservation of all natural resources
- Public awareness of our goals and objectives
- Economic Efficiency and Viability

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#### **Natural Resource Priorities and Goals:**

- Work on meeting the water quality needs such as the Deadman so we can get out of the sites of the regulatory agencies
  - Make sure that programs are being used as they are supposed to – keep in check
  - Viable alternative to burning – reduce straw without burning
  - Investigate and look into the possibility of a weed seeker sprayer availability
  - Improvement of our pasture and weed management so rangeland infestation of weeds is reduced
  - More projects on the ground and weed projects in Garfield County
  - Continue with upland conservation work
  - Revisions of farm plans adapted to the needs of the land and individuals

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#### **Critical Geographic Areas: (see attached map)**

- Deadman, Alpowa, Pataha, and Meadow Creek Watersheds

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## **District Operations Priorities, Goals:**

### **Technology & Conservation Education**

- By January 2013 have 50% increase in conservation technology use in the county; 90% of Garfield County citizens will be educated on district conservation programs with 100% availability; 75% increase in producers using GPS technology; 50% of the producers are using weed seeker technology by 2009

#### **Actions (next 12 months):**

1. Hold a class for producers on new conservation technology including demonstration areas
2. Put information in public places on conservation cost share and technology
3. Visit with local producers that are not practicing weed seeker and/or GPS technology regarding their interest.

#### **Key Decision Makers:**

1. Conservation District Supervisors
2. Local Work Group
3. Local dealers with interest in building and maintaining the weed seeker equipment
4. WRIA 35 group for implementation funding
5. Producers that would demonstrate the technology
6. Weed board
7. Jerry Wilsey – volunteer assistance

### **Rangeland Management & Weed Control (rangeland & cropland)**

- By January 2013 have cattlemen involved in rangeland management (including weed management) leading to a successful treatment on 25% of the county rangeland acreage; and 80% of the producers will have a weed management program in place.

#### **Actions (next 12 months):**

1. Find or produce a standardized planning template for range management and weed management
2. Coordinate with the technical experts on the weed board and local district on information – education, infestations, producers with interest, and cost share activities
3. Coordinate the activities with area agronomists – private industries

#### **Key Decision Makers:**

1. All chemical representatives
2. Courtney Smith
3. Steve Ledgerwood, Beau Blachly and Ken Uto
4. Representative to SE Weed Management Area

### **Air Quality**

- By January 2013 reduce or eliminate agricultural burning by 2500 acres.

#### **Actions (next 12 months):**

1. Burn 500 less acres next spring by going to the top few producers to attain this reduction
2. Approach ag chemical dealers in town to promote reduce the tillage operations by one operation
3. With the County Fire Commissioners & City Council to provide an education program on the need to eliminate burning in the city
4. Explore Spokane CD low interest loan for composting equipment
5. Work with Roger Dumbeck on the possible composting operation

#### **Key Decision Makers:**

1. Three largest users of the burn program over last three years

2. Chemical companies
3. Fire commissioners & city council
4. Spokane CD

#### **Water Resources** (Quality & Quantity)

- By January 2013 all cooperators will have an approved conservation plan to meet their objectives for implementation of conservation practices to improve water quality and conserve water quantity in order to receive cost share assistance.

##### **Actions** (next 12 months):

1. Contact FSA and NRCS regarding farm planning for program activity
2. Survey some cooperators to identify willingness to develop an updated conservation plan
3. Check on funding for plan development and implementation including technical service provider funding

##### **Key Decision Makers:**

1. WRIA 35
2. BPA
3. Ecology
4. WSCC

#### **District Operations & Funding** (for all of the above)

- By January 2013 increase in funding from at least one additional source of funding annually; above adequate funding for programs above.

##### **Actions** (next 12 months):

1. Sign the firewise agreement with Skagit CD
2. Figure out what should be made available to demonstrate Weed Seeker technology – develop a business plan with revenue and expenses, rental agreement
3. Make application to Spokane CD for low interest loan for Weed Seeker equipment if necessary
4. Look at WRIA 35 implementation funding

##### **Key Decision Makers:**

1. Spokane CD – Rich Baden
2. Benton CD – Erin Fuhrer
3. Brad Johnson and WRIA 35
4. SE Cooperative Weed Management Area Group

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#### **Trends Impacting Conservation in the Pomeroy Conservation District**

- Still have livestock related needs
- Increase needs on grazing lands and noxious weeds
- Profitability of farming – increased input costs & economy
- If world situation changes on commodities prices decrease we still will have associated high input costs
- Weather impacts
- Increase in weed infestations (tied to economics, profitability of farming and politics)
- Increase in technology
- Increase in water quantity and water quality issues
- Decrease in burning residue
- Increase in political pressures

#### **Strategies to Address Trends**

- Need to work on weed control issues – both rangeland and cropland – new technology introduced on methods of control
- More accessibility to cooperators on results of research and technology available – weed seeker, GPS systems, use of chemicals,
- Funding made available for the development of the programs above

## Natural Resource Data:

### Natural Resources Information & Status

#### ■ Forest Land

The school fire was basically the only forest land activity covered by Conservation District programs. The USFS works on their land within the Umatilla National Forest and the DNR works with landowners on private and state property. The grass seeding project completed by the district with funding from the Commission was a tremendous success. It grew to such a degree as the picture illustrates that it could be a fire hazard in it's self.



#### ■ Cropland

Of the 221,544 acres of farmable cropland in Garfield County, roughly 150,000 acres has been treated with some degree of cost share from the Conservation District or a federal farm program (EQIP) that followed practices implemented from district programs. Additional federal funding is being utilized in programs

such as CRP, CREP, and EQIP to protect another third of the cropland. The remaining third still needs funding of some kind to bring it to the level of the remaining county.

#### ■ Rangeland

The 131,000 acres of pasture and rangeland in Garfield County is in dir need of improved management. At this point in time the district has been unable to obtain the necessary funding from any source to effectively address the yellow star and skeleton weed problems that are currently reducing the quality of our rangeland.

## Staffing Needs

- We currently have two full time employees with two part time. This staffing is sufficient to implement the plan as stated above.

## Annual Budget Needs



## FY2009 Annual Budget Pomeroy Conservation District

	Income	
Lead Entity	\$6,000	
DOE Grant	\$100,000	
Good Governance	\$10,700	
BPA	\$45,000	
Livestock Influenced Water Quality	\$22,000	
PIP Loan	\$25,000	
CREP grant	\$70,000	
Implementation grant	\$35,000	
Burn Permits	\$17,000	
Maps	\$50.00	
Raingauges	\$15.00	
Tree Sales	\$10,000	
Soil testing	\$4,500	
Interest earned	\$275	
Grader Rental	\$5,000	
Firewise	\$15,000	



**Program Area: Technology & Conservation Education**

Measurable Goal: By January 2013 have 50% increase in conservation technology use in the county; 90% of Garfield County citizens will be educated on district conservation programs with 100% availability; 75% increase in producers using GPS technology; 50% of the producers are using weed seeker technology.

Strategies:

Funding Source(s):

<b>Activities for FY2009</b>	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Time(Days) Required</b>	<b>Estimated Funding</b>
1. <i>Hold a class for producers on new conservation technology including demonstration areas</i>	April	Duane Bartels	1 day	\$500
2. <i>Put information in public places on conservation cost share and technology</i>	On-going	Marie Gormsen	1 days	\$200
3. <i>Visit with local producers that are not practicing weed seeker and/or GPS technology regarding their interest.</i>	On-going	Duane Bartels	6 days	\$1,800
				\$2,500

**Program Area: Rangeland Management & Weed Control** (rangeland & cropland)

Measurable Goal: By January 2013 have cattlemen involved in rangeland management (including weed management) leading to a successful treatment on 25% of the county rangeland acreage; and 80% of the producers will have a weed management program in place

Strategies:

Funding Source(s):

<b>Activities for FY2009</b>	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Time(Days) Required</b>	<b>Estimated Funding</b>
1. <i>Find or produce a standardized planning template for range management and weed management</i>	On going	Duane Bartels	2 days	\$600
2. <i>Coordinate with the technical experts on the weed board and local district on information – education, infestations, producers with interest, and cost share activities</i>	On going	Duane Bartels	20 days	\$6,000
3. <i>Coordinate the activities with area agronomists – private industries</i>	On going	Duane Bartels	5 days	\$1,500

Program Area: **Air Quality**

Goal(s): By January 2013 reduce or eliminate agricultural burning by 2500 acres.

Strategies:

Funding Source(s):

<b>Activities for FY2009</b>	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Time(Days) Required</b>	<b>Estimated Funding</b>
1. <i>Burn 500 less acres next spring by going to the top few producers to attain this reduction</i>	Spring	Duane Bartels	1 day	\$300
2. <i>Approach ag chemical dealers in town to promote reduce the tillage operations by one operation</i>	On going	Duane Bartels	5 days	\$1,500
3. <i>With the County Fire Commissioners &amp; City Council to provide an education program on the need to eliminate burning in the city</i>	On going	Duane Bartels	2 days	\$600
4. <i>Explore Spokane CD low interest loan for composting equipment</i>	Spring	Duane Bartels	1 day	\$300
5. <i>Work with Roger Dumbuck on the possible composting operation</i>	Spring	Duane Bartels	1 day	\$300

Program Area: **Water Resources** (Quality & Quantity)

Goal: By January 2013 all cooperators will have an approved conservation plan to meet their objectives for implementation of conservation practices to improve water quality and conserve water quantity in order to receive cost share assistance.

Strategies:

Funding Source(s):

<b>Activities for FY2009</b>	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Time(Days) Required</b>	<b>Estimated Funding</b>
1. <i>Contact FSA and NRCS regarding farm planning for program activity</i>	On going	Duane Bartels	2 days	\$600
2. <i>Survey some cooperators to identify willingness to develop an updated conservation plan</i>	On going	Duane Bartels	2 days	\$600
3. <i>Check on funding for plan development and implementation including technical service provider funding</i>	On going	Duane Bartels	2 days	\$600

Program Area: **District Operations & Funding** (for all of the above)

Goal(s): By January 2013 increase in funding from at least one additional source of funding annually; above adequate funding for programs above.

Strategies:

Funding Source(s):

<b>Activities for FY2009</b>	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Time(Days) Required</b>	<b>Estimated Funding</b>
1. <i>Sign the firewise agreement with Skagit CD and begin implementing program.</i>	Feb.	Duane Bartels	1 day	\$300
2. <i>Figure out what should be made available to demonstrate Weed Seeker technology – develop a business plan with revenue and</i>	Mar.	Duane Bartels	2 days	\$600

<i>expenses, rental agreement</i>				
3. <i>Make application to Spokane CD for low interest loan for Weed Seeker equipment if needed.</i>	If needed	Duane Bartels	1 day	\$300
4. <i>Look at WRIA 35 implementation funding</i>	If needed	Duane Bartels	3 days	\$900
5. <i>Administer all cost share programs not covered above.</i>	On going	Duane & Marie	70 days	\$17,500

**Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices**